

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) In a data processing system having a user terminal for entering a transaction request, wherein said transaction request has one of a plurality of protocols, responsively coupled via a publically available digital communication network to an enterprise server for responding to said transaction request using an enterprise protocol which is not one of said plurality of protocols, the improvement comprising:

A generic gateway interposed between said user terminal and said enterprise server which responsively couples said user terminal to said enterprise server by converting said plurality of protocols to said enterprise protocol.

2. (Previously Presented) The improvement according to claim 1 further comprising a plurality of adapters interposed between said generic gateway and said user terminal which responsively couples said user terminal to said generic gateway wherein each one of said plurality of adapters corresponds to said one of said plurality of protocols.

3. (Original) The improvement according to claim 2 wherein said publically available digital communication network further comprises the internet.

4. (Currently Previously Amended) The improvement according to claim 3 further comprising an Industry Standard Server housing said generic gateway and providing a middleware environment.

5. (Original) The improvement according to claim 4 wherein said user terminal further comprises an industry compatible personal computer.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a. A user terminal which generates a service request using one of a plurality of protocols,

b. A publically accessible digital data communication network responsively coupled to said user terminal;

c. A generic gateway within a server responsibily coupled to said publically available digital data communication network which converts said service request into an enterprise protocol which is not one of said plurality of protocols; and

d. An enterprise server which responds to said enterprise protocol responsively coupled to said generic server.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said server further comprises:

A plurality of adapters responsively coupled intermediate said publically available digital data communication network and said generic gateway.

8. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said publically accessible digital communication network further comprises the world wide web.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said server further comprises middleware.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said user terminal further comprises an industry compatible personal computer operating under a commercially available operating system.

11. (Original) A method of processing a transaction comprising:

a. Composing a service request using one of a plurality of formats;

b. Transferring said transaction request via a publically accessible digital data communication network to one of a

plurality of adapters corresponding to said one of said plurality of formats within a server; and

c. Converting said service request into a standardized format for processing within a generic gateway within said server.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11 further comprising:

Transferring said converted and processed service request from said generic gateway to an end service provider.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein said publically accessible digital data communication network further comprises the Internet.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13 wherein said one of said plurality of formats further comprises an active server page.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13 wherein said one of said plurality of formats further comprises a standard programming language.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

- a. Means for generating a service request using one of a plurality of protocols;
- b. Means responsively coupled to said generating means for transferring said transaction request via a publically accessible digital data network;
- c. Means responsively coupled to said publically accessible digital data network for adapting said service request to a standardized protocol using one of a plurality of adapters; and
- d. Means responsively coupled to said adapting means for processing said service request via a generic gateway.

17. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising means responsively coupled to said processing means for transferring said service request to an end service provider via one of a plurality of connectors.

18. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17 wherein said one of said plurality of adapters corresponds to said one of said plurality of connectors.

19. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said publically accessible digital data communication network is the Internet.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 19 wherein said generating means further comprises an industry compatible personal computer operating under a commercially available operating system.